

University Council Minutes
April 22, 2009 (Rescheduled from April 20, 2009)
2:00 – 4:00 PM
Brush Mountain Room A, Squires Student Center

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Bev Watford for Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Jack Davis, Anne McNabb for Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Tom Inzana for Robert Walters, J. Michael Kelly, Susan Sumner for Loke Kok, Kevin McDonald, Kim O'Rourke, Sue Ott Rowlands, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Kay Hunnings for Richard Sorensen, Ed Spencer, Tom Tillar, Sherwood Wilson, Daniel Wubah, Paul Deck, William Huckle, Gary Long, Maxine Lyons, Leslie O'Brien for Bradley Scott, Jane Wemhoener, Diane Zahm, Bob Denton, Sam Easterling, Jim A. Kuypers for Sam Riley, Susanna Rinehart, Danny Axsom, Sheila Carter-Tod, Steven Thompson for Bill Galloway, Bob Sturges, Judy Alford, Lori Anne Kirk, Teresa Lyons, Annette Bailey, Kim Beisecker, Barry Robinson for Mike Parrish, Joe McFadden, Lauren Creasy, Kolt Risser, Linsey Barker, Tom Tucker

Absent: John Dooley (with notice), Mark McNamee (with notice), Gerhardt Schurig, Frances Keene, Ingrid Ngai (with notice), Daphne Rainey-Wittich, Ken Eriksson, Lewis Wasserman, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, David Vaughan, Shep Zedaker, Travis Hundley, Shelly Key (with notice), Wyatt Sasser (with notice), Mary Alice Schaeffer, Carson Byrd, Lauren Davis, Wayne Scales, Tamim Younos (with notice), Lindsay Moss, Ali Yeilaghi-Tamijani, Rachel Goodwin, Thomas Hogdahl, Kelsie Lieberman, Rianka Urbina, Hardus Odendaal, Arlane Gordon-Bray

Guests: Pat Hyer, April Myers, Brianna Augenreich, Richard Rich, Charlotte Branton, Kaitlyn Loh, Mike Coleman, Denny Cochrane, Maggie Sloane, Perry Graham, Alan Palm, Erik Olsen, Sara Murrill, Elena Dulys-Nusbaum, Alexander Funk, Bryce Carter, Caroline Ryan, Jenna Livesay, Jen Pollard, Sandy Wirt, Kyle Gardiner, Lyndsay McKeever, Lauren Fialkow, Cynda Johnson, James Mullison, Heidi McCoy

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 30, 2009

Dr. Steger noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). (Note that the meeting scheduled for April 6, 2009, was cancelled.)

3. Announcement –Tuition Increase

Dr. Steger informed the Council that a proposal to increase in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by 6.9% will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors on Thursday, April 23, 2009. Stimulus money will be used to offer a scholarship (ARRA Mitigation Grant) to all undergraduate Virginia students that will be 1.9%. The net increase for undergraduate in-state students for tuition and mandatory fees will thus be 5%.

4. New Business

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Resolution 2008-09A

Resolution for Revisions to Policy 1025

Dr. Guy Sims presented the resolution for first reading.

Referring to the first whereas statement, Dr. Steger requested that the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity provide documentation on the magnitude of the problem (i.e., number of complaints received), and send it to the University Legal Counsel.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution 2008-09C

Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree

Dr. Paul Deck presented the resolution for first reading.

Under the third whereas statement, clarification was made that the “42-credit professional training program” should read as a “42-credit professional degree program.”

5. Old Business

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution 2008-09A

Resolution Amending the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly

Mr. Joe McFadden presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded.

A friendly amendment was proposed to change the last sentence under Article VI, Section 3, GSA Historian. The word “Webmaster” will be changed to “Historian.”

Dr. Steger called for a vote on the resolution with the friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission on University Support

Resolution 2008-09C

The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution

Ms. Leslie O’Brien presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval.

Dr. Steger informed the Council that he fully supports this resolution, and the university will implement projects as funding is available. The resolution is an expression of support for the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment. Mike Coleman, Associate Vice President for Facilities, clarified that the Sustainability Plan doesn’t mandate policy, but it is a recommendation for a plan to improve Virginia Tech’s sustainability programs.

A question was asked as to if students will have to pay a “green fee” to help fund some of these projects. Dr. Steger indicated that a decision has not been made, but he would prefer to not add an additional cost for students.

Dr. Steger previously asked Dr. Mark McNamee to examine the Virtual School of Sustainability. Student Angie DeSoto explained that the original conception of the Virtual School of

Sustainability was to have a website/database that can be used as a place to access a list of classes.

A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.

6. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). Note that the purpose of voting on Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 6, 2009
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
February 18, 2009
March 4, 2009
March 18, 2009
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
March 5, 2009
- Commission on Student Affairs
March 19, 2009
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 23, 2009
March 23, 2009
- Commission on University Support
March 19, 2009

7. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
February 26, 2009

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 p.m.